PRETTY CONNIE MOORE, TRAVELING TEN THOUSAND MILES FROM AMERICA, REACHES BENGALI.
MIKE!

--TO MARRY CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG, HER CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART.
CONNIE, DARLING!
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MIKE- IT'S BEEN THREE LONG YEARS!
EVERYTHING'S SET, HONEY! WE'LL BE MARRIED TOMORROW!
7-15

THAT HIM?
HIM!

WEDDING'S SET FOR NOON TOMORROW, CONNIE.
IT DOESN'T SEEM REAL TO ME- BEING HERE IN BENGALI WITH YOU-

MAN LEFT THIS AT DESK FOR YOU, CAPTAIN.
THANKS, BOY.

WHAT IS IT, MIKE? WHY-- A YELLOW FEATHER! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
7-16

PUT ON YOUR GOWN. WE'LL MARRY AT ONCE! TODAY! I'LL TAKE YOUR BAGS AND MEET YOU AT THE CHURCH!
BUT, MIKE!
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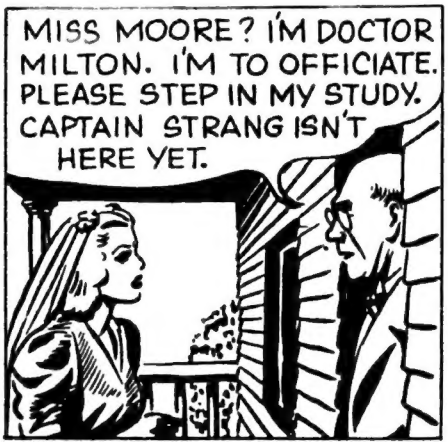
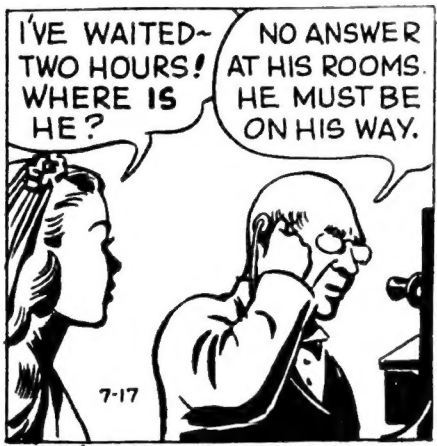
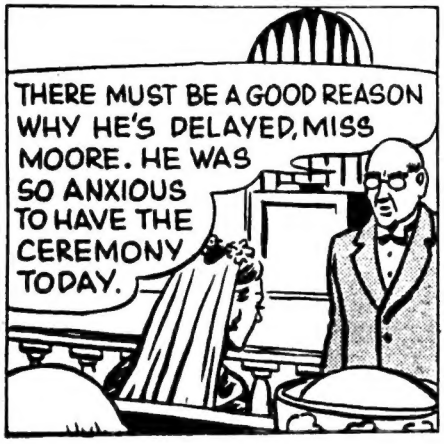
STRANGE- MIKE GOT SO EXCITED WHEN HE SAW THAT YELLOW FEATHER- INSISTED THE WEDDING SHOULD BE AT ONCE --

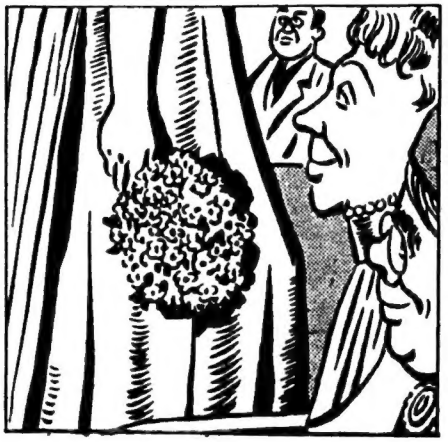
WONDER WHAT THE FEATHER MEANT? SOME PRACTICAL JOKE, I GUESS.


MISS MOORE? I'M DOCTOR MILTON. I'M TO OFFICIATE. PLEASE STEP IN MY STUDY. CAPTAIN STRANG ISN'T HERE YET.


I'VE WAITED- TWO HOURS! WHERE IS HE?
NO ANSWER AT HIS ROOMS. HE MUST BE ON HIS WAY.
7-17


THERE MUST BE A GOOD REASON WHY HE'S DELAYED, MISS MOORE. HE WAS SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE CEREMONY TODAY.

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS - WHEN THEY HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR SO MANY YEARS - -
THE MAN TAKES ANOTHER LOOK AND CHANGES HIS MIND.

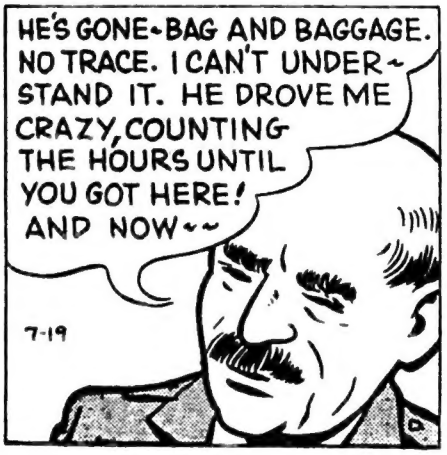


7-18

CAME TEN THOUSAND MILES FROM HOME TO MARRY - - LEFT AT THE CHURCH - NO MONEY - MY LUGGAGE GONE - DON'T KNOW A SOUL HERE -

MIKE - MIKE - HOW COULD YOU? - SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR! IT MUST BE - MIKE!

OH - -
I'M MAJOR MARIN, MISS MOORE. I AM - I WAS TO BE - I MEAN - I AM MIKE'S BEST MAN.


HE'S GONE - BAG AND BAGGAGE. NO TRACE. I CAN'T UNDER - STAND IT. HE DROVE ME CRAZY, COUNTING THE HOURS UNTIL YOU GOT HERE! AND NOW - -
7-19

MIKE ACTED ALRIGHT - UNTIL HE SAW THIS YELLOW FEATHER. SOMEONE - LEFT IT FOR HIM AT THE DESK. HE GOT ALL EXCITED -

- SAID WE MUST MARRY AT ONCE - TOOK MY BAGS - AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE.
WHAT A MYSTERY! IT'D TAKE THE PHANTOM TO UNRAVEL IT!
7-20

PHANTOM? WHERE IS HE? TAKE ME TO HIM!
WHOA - THERE'S REALLY NO SUCH PERSON - JUST AN EXPRESSION - I THINK -
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SUPERSTITION - SORT OF DEMI - GOD - NATIVES SAY THEY'VE SEEN HIM.
I'LL FIND HIM - IF IT TAKES THE REST OF MY LIFE!

CONNIE, THIS IS MADNESS! YOU CAN'T GO RIDING OFF INTO THE JUNGLE, SEARCHING FOR A NON-EXISTENT PHANTOM!

AND IN YOUR BRIDAL DRESS.
I HAVEN'T GOT ANY OTHER CLOTHES. MIKE TOOK MY LUGGAGE. DON'T YOU SEE? I'VE GOT TO FIND THE PHANTOM~

SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO MIKE! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! IF THE PHANTOM CAN HELP HIM~~

I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER GO! BUT SHE WAS HYSTERICAL. AN HOUR'S RIDE IN THE WOODS ~AND SHE'LL BE BACK~~
7-22

I'VE GOT TO FIND THE PHANTOM~ THEN HE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND MIKE~

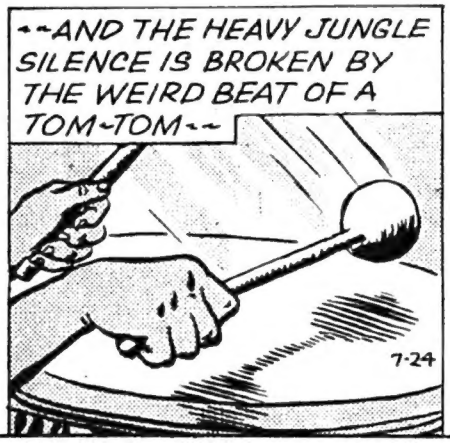
OH~ I'VE RIDDEN FOR HOURS ~THE HORSE IS TIRED~ AND SO AM I~~

OH~~
7-23

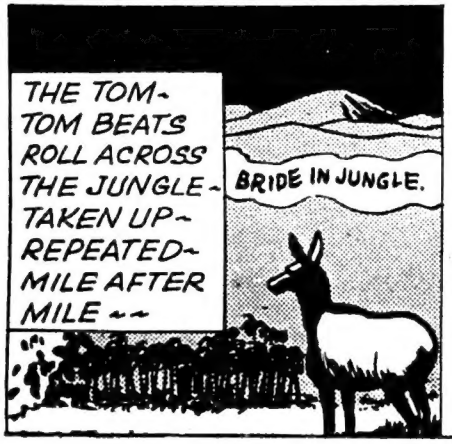
AND CONNIE, STARTING TO CALM DOWN, REALIZES SHE IS STRANDED IN THE HEART OF A HOSTILE JUNGLE!
NO~NO~COME BACK~ PLEASE COME BACK~

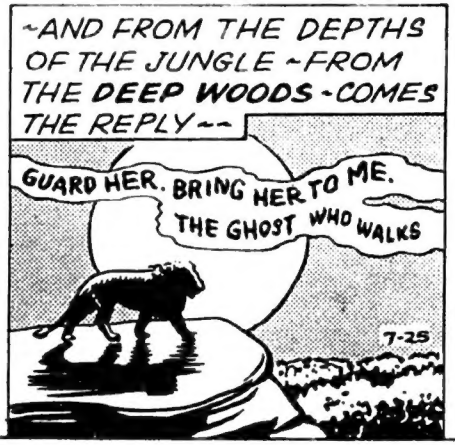
I'M LOST~ I'LL KEEP WALKING ~ I'LL SEE SOMEONE~ I MUST SEE SOMEONE~

THE NIGHT IS DARK~BUT THERE ARE EYES THAT WATCH~~


~~AND THE HEAVY JUNGLE SILENCE IS BROKEN BY THE WEIRD BEAT OF A TOM~TOM~~
7-24

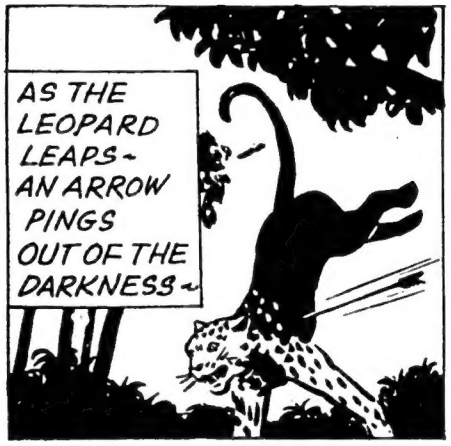
THAT SOUND~A DRUM~OR SOMETHING. THEY SAID~~ IF I'M IN THE JUNGLE, THE PHANTOM WILL KNOW IT~ I HOPE SO~OH, I HOPE SO~~


THE TOM-TOM BEATS ROLL ACROSS THE JUNGLE- TAKEN UP- REPEATED- MILE AFTER MILE --
BRIDE IN JUNGLE.


-AND FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE JUNGLE -FROM THE DEEP WOODS -COMES THE REPLY --
GUARD HER. BRING HER TO ME. THE GHOST WHO WALKS
7-25

CONNIE RUNS FRANTICALLY- NOT KNOWING THE MEAN- ING OF THE TOM-TOMS-
THOSE DRUM BEATS-WHERE AM I --?

HUNGRY EYES WATCH HER- -STEELY MUSCLES TIGHTEN- READY TO LEAP --


AS THE LEOPARD LEAPS- AN ARROW PINGS OUT OF THE DARKNESS-

CONNIE RUNS ON-UNAWARE OF THE LEOPARD OR THE ARROW --
THE PHANTOM MUST FIND ME- HE MUST- HE MUST-
7-26

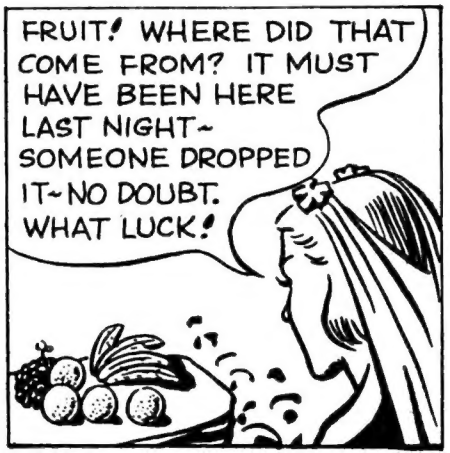
-BUT I CAN'T RUN ANY FARTHER. I'M TIRED -SO TIRED --

AND AS SHE SLEEPS-

AS CONNIE SLEEPS- A TIGER CREEPS TOWARD HER- THEN A SPEAR SPEEDS THRU THE DARKNESS --

SILENTLY, THE CARCASS IS DRAGGED AWAY -SHE SLEEPS ON- UNAWARE --

DAYLIGHT! AH. I FEEL BETTER, AFTER A GOOD SLEEP. IF I ONLY HAD SOMETHING TO EAT --
7-27

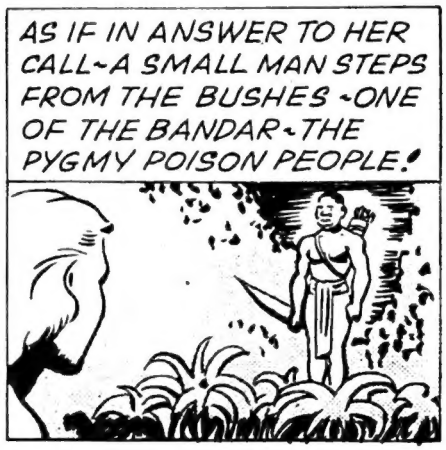

FRUIT! WHERE DID THAT COME FROM? IT MUST HAVE BEEN HERE LAST NIGHT- SOMEONE DROPPED IT- NO DOUBT. WHAT LUCK!

CONNIE~ THE BRIDE WITHOUT A BRIDE~ GROOM~ FINISHES HER JUNGLE MEAL~
AH~ THAT WAS GOOD! NOW~ IF I COULD ONLY HAVE A BATH~
MADE TO ORDER
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JUNGLE! AND ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME!
7-29
AN ADDED ATTRACTION~~ NOT FOUND IN THE AVERAGE HOME~SLIPS SILENTLY IN-TO THE STREAM~~
AS THE HUGE ALLIGATOR SWIMS SILENTLY TOWARD CONNIE~ WHO SPLASHES HAPPILY AND UNAWARE~~
THERE IS A SOFT 'PING' FROM THE FOLIAGE.
THE ARROW STRIKES HOME~ THE SAURIAN SINKS SILENTLY~ UNSEEN BY CONNIE~~
7-30
POOH~ WHO SAID THE JUNGLE WAS DANGEROUS? I'M AS SAFE AS IF I WERE HOME IN BED
CONNIE WALKS ON, PASSING THRU THE LAND OF THE TIWA CANNIBALS
OH, MY FEET. THESE HIGH HEELS WEREN'T MADE FOR HIKING. I'LL GO BARE-FOOTED.
7-31
ON~THRU THE TERRITORY OF THE OSMA HEAD-HUNTERS~ THRU JUNGLE DANGERS AN ARMY COULD NOT BRAVE~~
WILL I EVER FIND THE PHANTOM? THOSE DRUMBEATS~!
ALL HELD IN CHECK~BY THE TOM-TOM COMMAND FROM THE DEEP WOODS
GUARD HER. BRING HER TO ME.

A SECOND NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE~ AND NOW CONNIE IS SCARED~
IT'S DARK~ IT'S SO DARK~ I'M ALL ALONE~

THOSE DRUMBEATS ~ THEY NEVER STOP! WHERE AM I? WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO COME HERE~ ALONE~~

PHANTOM ~ PHANTOM~ WHERE ARE YOU~~? PHANTOM~ PHANTOM~~
8-1


AS IF IN ANSWER TO HER CALL~A SMALL MAN STEPS FROM THE BUSHES ~ONE OF THE BANDAR~THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE!

HE SEEMS TO ~ WANT ME TO FOLLOW HIM~ HE CAN'T BE THE PHANTOM~ SHOULD I FOLLOW~?
8-2

THO' SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT, CONNIE IS ENTERING THE MYSTERIOUS AND DREADED DEEP WOODS~~
HE SEEMS~FRIENDLY~ I'D BETTER GO WITH HIM~

SHE FOLLOWS, THRU TWISTING RAVINES, DENSE THICKETS ~FINALLY PASSING BEHIND A WATERFALL~~

THEN SEES THE LEGENDARY PLACE WHISPERED ABOUT THROUGHOUT THE JUNGLE~ THE SKULL CAVE OF THE PHANTOM!
WHAT ON EARTH~~?

STRANGE LITTLE PEOPLE STARE AT CONNIE~
ARE THEY~~ FRIENDLY~OR HUNGRY~?

SHE STOPS SHORT~ AHEAD IS AN AMAZING THRONE~~ AND ON IT~ SOMETHING MORE AMAZING~~
ARE YOU THE~~?

WELCOME, CONNIE. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. YES, I AM THE PHANTOM.
8-3

OOOOH~
HEY~~SHE FAINTED~~!

I'M ALL RIGHT NOW. HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS COMING?
PEOPLE TELL ME THINGS. BUT YOU TOOK QUITE A CHANCE-

NOW- WHY ARE YOU HERE, CONNIE?
I WANT TO FIND MIKE- WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MARRY- HE ACTED NORMALLY-

-UNTIL SOMEONE SENT HIM THIS YELLOW FEATHER! THEN HE BECAME EXCITED-- INSISTED WE MARRY AT ONCE- AND DISAPPEARED!
8-5

THAT'S NOT YELLOW- IT'S GOLDEN. THE FEATHER OF A GOLDEN PEACOCK!
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

GURAN- WHO IN THE JUNGLE HAS GOLDEN PEACOCKS?
NO ONE, OH GHOST- WHO- WALKS.

FAR AWAY, IN THE MISTY MOUNTAINS, THERE ARE GOLDEN PEACOCKS IN THE GARDEN OF QUEEN ASTA OF TRONDELAY.

WHO- IS SHE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER, BUT I HEAR SHE'S A VERY BEAUTIFUL AND FIERY YOUNG LADY.

AND IT IS THERE THAT I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND YOUR MISSING BRIDEGROOM
BUT-- WHY IS HE-- THERE?
8-6

WHY SHOULD MIKE GO TO TRONDELAY ON OUR WEDDING DAY?
I DON'T KNOW. YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM, CONNIE.

PLEASE HELP ME- I CAN'T GO THERE ALONE - WHAT- (SOB) CAN I DO--?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR AMERICA- AND DIANA--

NOW- STOP CRYING. I'LL HELP YOU - BUT PLEASE STOP CRYING.
8-7

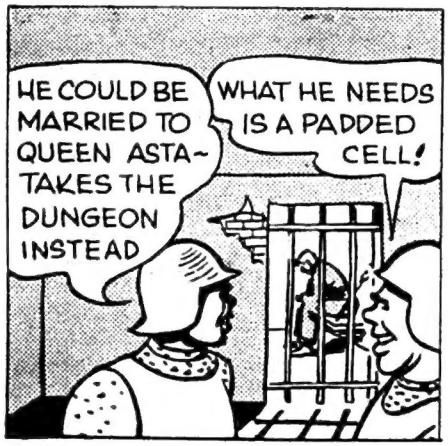
AT THE FOOT OF THE MISTY MOUNTAINS- THE HALF-BARBARIC KINGDOM OF TRONDELAY--
RULED OVER BY THE COMPLETELY BARBARIC BUT BEAUTIFUL YOUNG QUEEN ASTA.
CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG IS HERE, YOUR HIGHNESS. HE WAITS OUTSIDE.
8-8
GOOD! DRAG THE SNEAK IN HERE!
CAPTAIN MIKE!
HELLO- ASTA-
SO SORRY MY MEN DISTURBED YOU ON YOUR WEDDING DAY- KIDNAPPING YOU LIKE THAT--
BUT I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU REMEMBERED MY NAME. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN-
JUST AS YOU EVIDENTLY FORGOT- THAT YOU WERE ALREADY MARRIED TO ME!
8-9
I IMAGINE YOUR LITTLE BRIDE-TO-BE WAS SHOCKED BY YOUR STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE. I HOPE MY MEN DIDN'T MAUL YOU TOO BADLY.
ASTA, WE WERE NEVER REALLY MARRIED. I HARDLY KNEW YOU.
YOU RAN AWAY-AND BROKE MY HEART--
THE ONLY MAN I EVER LOVED--
NOW, ASTA -- YOU'D ALREADY BEEN MARRIED NINE TIMES--
8-10
AND EACH HUSBAND LOST HIS HEAD- ONE AFTER ANOTHER--
PUPPY-LOVE. BUT YOU WERE DIFFERENT, DARLING--

ASTA, BE REASONABLE. I SAW YOU ONLY ONCE~ FROM A DISTANCE~
YOU WERE ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED~~

YOU SENT WORD THAT I WAS YOUR HUSBAND~~
THEREBY SAVING YOUR LIFE~

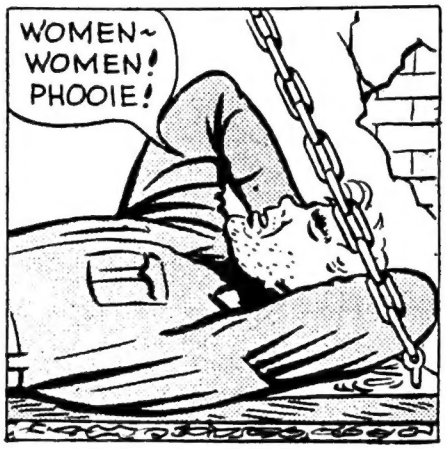
THEN I ESCAPED THE SAME NIGHT~ AND NEVER SAW YOU AGAIN~ I DIDN'T CONSIDER THAT WE WERE MARRIED~~
8-12

IN TRONDELAY, MY WORD IS ENOUGH! I AM THE LAW! AFTER A FEW MONTHS IN MY DUNGEON~ ON BREAD AND WATER~ YOU MAY BELIEVE IT! TAKE HIM AWAY!


HE COULD BE MARRIED TO QUEEN ASTA~ TAKES THE DUNGEON INSTEAD
WHAT HE NEEDS IS A PADDED CELL!

WHAT A SPOT! ~ ASTA IS A SAVAGE~ A WILD WOMAN~~ SHE'LL LET ME ROT DOWN HERE~

POOR CONNIE ~LEFT AT THE ALTAR~ WHAT CAN SHE THINK OF ME? PROBABLY READY TO KNIFE ME!
8-13


WOMEN~ WOMEN! PHOOIE!

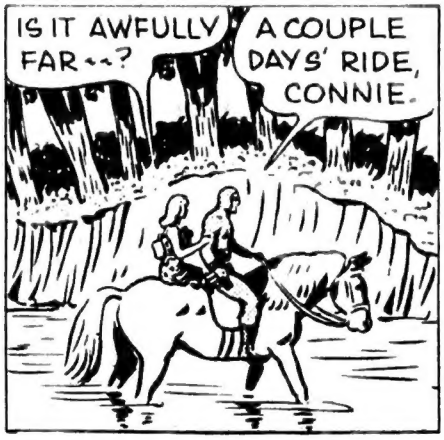
MY BRIDAL DRESS IS SO DIRTY~ I'D HATE TO MEET MIKE LIKE THIS
YOU'LL FIND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IN THE CAVE, CONNIE.

HOW'S THIS?
I THINK MIKE'LL LIKE THAT.

OH, FOR SOME WARM WATER! I HOPE I DON'T RUIN MY BEAUTIFUL DRESS IN THIS JUNGLE LAUNDRY!
8-14

THERE! AS SOON AS THIS DRIES~~ WE'LL BE READY TO GO TO TRONDELAY~ AND MIKE!
AND QUEEN ASTA!

I'LL CARRY MY BRIDAL DRESS. SO IT'LL BE NICE AND FRESH WHEN WE REACH TRONDELAY.


IS IT AWFULLY FAR--?
A COUPLE DAYS' RIDE, CONNIE.

NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE-- CONNIE SLEEPS-THE PHANTOM STAYS ON GUARD-
YOU'RE AWFULLY NICE TO HELP ME-BZZZZ--
8-15

AND HE DREAMS OF DIANA FAR AWAY--
I THOUGHT I'D BE WITH DIANA BY NOW. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO KEEP US APART--

IN TRONDELAY-QUEENASTA AMUSES HERSELF HUNTING THE DANGEROUS WILD BOAR-

-PAUSES AT THE JAIL TO ADMINISTER PUNISHMENT TO A THIEF-

-STOPS FOR A FEW MOMENTS AT HER PRIVATE ARENA TO WATCH WILD ANIMALS FIGHT TO THE DEATH--

AH, ME-LIFE IS SO BORING HERE! THERE'S NOTHING TO DO!
8-16

WHERE IS CAPTAIN MIKE'S CELL?
AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR, YOUR HIGHNESS.

SO! STILL MOONING ABOUT THAT MILK-FACED GIRL YOU ALMOST MARRIED? THAT SNIVELING CONNIE?

IF I HAD HER HERE, I'D CUT HER TO RIBBONS!
8-17

THAT'S TRONDELAY, CONNIE. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

THE PHANTOM AND CONNIE REACH TRONDELAY, IN SEARCH OF HER MISSING BRIDEGROOM.

I GUESS ~ I'D BETTER CHANGE ~ TO MY OWN CLOTHES

I WONDER ~ IF MIKE WILL BE GLAD TO SEE ME ~?
HE'LL BE A FOOL IF HE ISN'T, CONNIE! READY TO GO?

NO! I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! I DON'T WANT TO SEE MIKE! I WANT TO GO HOME!
WHAT?
8-19

CONNIE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN ~ YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?
~ MIKE ~~ LEFT ME AT THE ALTAR ~

I'VE BEEN A FOOL TO CHASE HIM ~ I THOUGHT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM ~ I'M JUST REALIZING THAT MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME ~~

YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY! THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS SEE HIM. HE OWES YOU AN EXPLANATION!
8-20

WHAT ~ WHAT'LL I DO?
GO TO THE PALACE ~ AND ASK FOR HIM.
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AT THE GATES OF TRON-DELAY ~
I'VE COME TO SEE ~ CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG ~

I'D BETTER FOLLOW CONNIE. SHE MAY BE HEADED FOR TROUBLE.

IF I EVER SEE THAT MILK-FACED W/S&XG WHO TRIED TO MARRY MIKE ~ I'LL CUT HER TO RIBBONS!
8-21

YOUR HIGHNESS ~ THERE IS A FOREIGN WOMAN AT THE GATES ~ ASKING FOR CAPTAIN MIKE!
WHAT! BRING HER TO ME!

CONNIE IS LED THRU THE PALACE OF TRONDELAY--
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FOOL-- WHAT'LL I SAY WHEN I SEE MIKE?

-LED BEFORE A WOMAN OF SAVAGE BEAUTY, WHO STARES AT HER WITH BURNING EYES--
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I'M CONNIE MOORE. I'VE COME TO SEE CAPTAIN MIKE STRANG. I- WAS TOLD- HE WAS HERE--

YOU WERE, WERE YOU!
OH--!
8-22

YOUR CAPTAIN MIKE HAPPENS TO BE MY HUSBAND!
YOUR-- WHAT?

MY MEN DRAGGED HIM HERE BY THE HAIR OF HIS HEAD! AND HE'LL STAY IN MY DUNGEON UNTIL HE ROTS!

DRAGGED HIM HERE? IN YOUR DUNGEON?
YES! TRIED TO SNEAK OFF- MARRY YOU BEHIND MY BACK-

SO THAT'S THE STORY! THIS MIKE MUST BE QUITE A BOY!
8-23

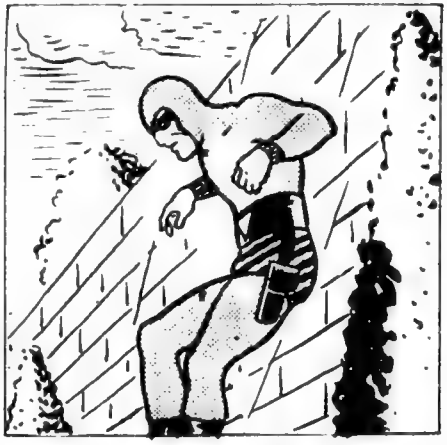
TAKE HER TO THE WHIPPING POST!
WHIPPING POST?

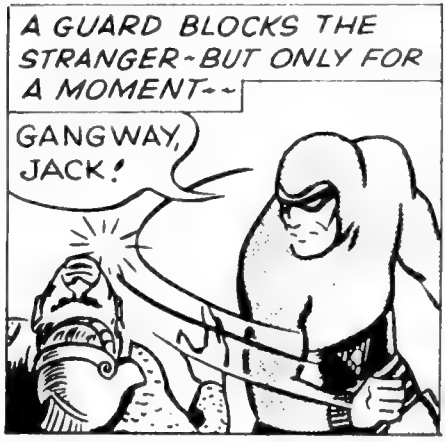
GENTLE CONNIE IS STUNNED. WHAT HAS SHE GOTTEN INTO- IN THIS BARBARIC REALM?
IS THAT- QUEEN ASTA?
YUP.

I'LL WHIP HER TO TATTERS! ALL HE DOES IS MOON ABOUT HER-
8-24

I WON'T LEAVE HIM MUCH TO MOON ABOUT--!

AS ASTA RAISES THE WHIP
YOU~CAN'T~ I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING~
OH, DIDN'T YOU~~!




A GUARD BLOCKS THE STRANGER~BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT~~
GANGWAY, JACK!

I'LL TAKE THAT WHIP!
WHO~~ WHAT~?
8-26

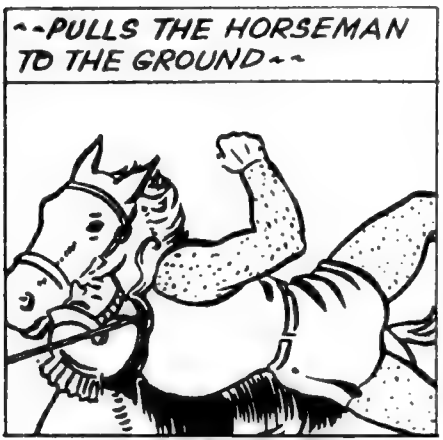
HE SNAPS CONNIE'S BONDS QUICKLY~~
THANK GOODNESS YOU CAME. SHE WAS~~
I KNOW.

QUEEN ASTA BLAZES WITH FURY AT THIS BOLD STRANGER~
KILL HIM~ WHOEVER HE IS!

BUT THE GUARDS HAVEN'T TIME TO AIM THEIR ANTIQUE MUSKETS~~
8-27

AS HE STARTS BACK TO HIS FEET~A MOUNTED SPEARMAN BEARS DOWN ON HIM~

IN THE PALACE COURTYARD AT TRONDELAY~THE PHANTOM LASHES OUT WITH HIS WHIP~~


~~PULLS THE HORSEMAN TO THE GROUND~~

~SPRINGS TO THE HORSE~ SWEEPS CONNIE UP WITH HIM~~

~AND IS OFF AND AWAY BEFORE ANYONE~INCLUDING QUEEN ASTA~CAN SAY BOO!
B~~~
8-28

WHO WAS THAT TORNADO?

WE TRIED TO FOLLOW THEM- LOST THEM IN THE WOODS--
WHO WAS THAT MAN?

DEATH'S HEAD--! THE MARK OF THE-PHANTOM!

SO THAT WAS THE PHANTOM! WHAT A MAN--!
8-29

MIKE DIDN'T DESERT ME! QUEEN ASTA KIDNAPPED HIM! HE'S IN A DUNGEON!

BUT SHE SAID SHE WAS HIS-WIFE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT YET. WE'LL SEE.

YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK THERE!
YES, TO GET MIKE. THIS WHOLE THING'S STARTING TO INTEREST ME-

WAIT THERE, CONNIE. IT WON'T BE LONG!
PLEASE-GET MIKE AWAY FROM THAT-AWFUL WOMAN!
8-30

THE PHANTOM RETURNS TO THE CASTLE-
OOF--

-SKIPS OVER THE HIGH WALL--
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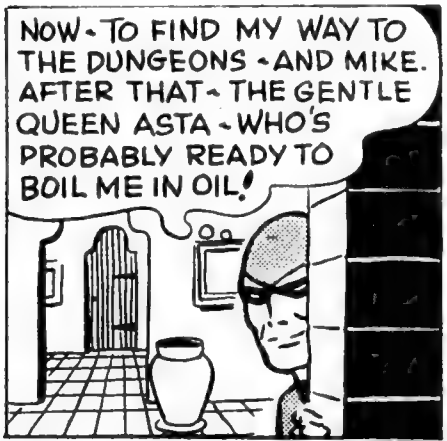
NOW-TO FIND MY WAY TO THE DUNGEONS-AND MIKE. AFTER THAT-THE GENTLE QUEEN ASTA-WHO'S PROBABLY READY TO BOIL ME IN OIL!

SO THAT WAS THE PHANTOM- HE'S THE MAN I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL MY LIFE!
8-31

IN THE PALACE OF TRONDELAY.

ULP~~

HERE COMES CAPTAIN MIKE'S BREAD AND WATER.
HMM~~ VARIETY. WHOLE-WHEAT BREAD TODAY.

IF I COULD ONLY GET OUT~ AND SEE CONNIE ~ JUST FOR A MINUTE~~!
9-2
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BREAD AND WATER AGAIN! CAN'T THEY AT LEAST MAKE IT HOT WATER~ JUST FOR A CHANGE!

SHH~CONNIE'S WAITING FOR YOU~OUTSIDE THE TOWN.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE~ TELL ME HOW YOU GOT INTO THIS MESS WITH QUEEN ASTA.
WHO~ ARE YOU?

MEN CALL ME THE PHANTOM
MIGOSH! SO THERE REALLY IS A YOU!
9-3
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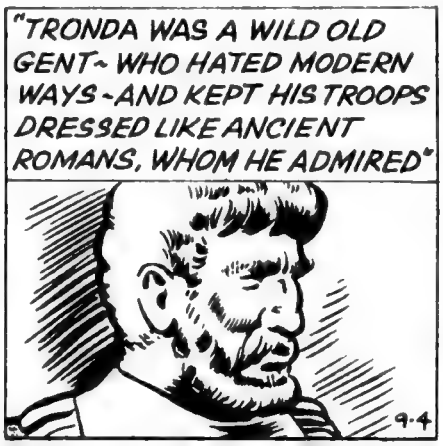
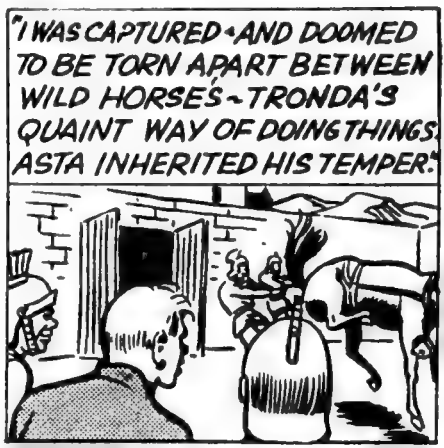
MIKE'S STORY~
HOW DID I GET MIXED UP WITH QUEEN ASTA? IT'S A LONG STORY~

"ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, WE HAD SOME BORDER TROUBLE WITH KING TRONDA, ASTA'S FATHER. I WAS SENT TO QUIET HIM DOWN."


"TRONDA WAS A WILD OLD GENT~ WHO HATED MODERN WAYS~AND KEPT HIS TROOPS DRESSED LIKE ANCIENT ROMANS, WHOM HE ADMIRED"
9-4


"I WAS CAPTURED~AND DOOMED TO BE TORN APART BETWEEN WILD HORSES~TRONDA'S QUAINT WAY OF DOING THINGS. ASTA INHERITED HIS TEMPER."

"AS I WAS ABOUT TO BE TORN APART BY WILD HORSES," CONTINUES MIKE, "A GUARD STEPPED UP TO ME."
LOOK UP TO THAT WINDOW-

"LOOKING UP, I SAW ASTA. THE GUARD SAID IF I WOULD MARRY HER, MY LIFE WOULD BE SPARED."

"WHAT COULD I DO? I WAS IN NO POSITION TO BE CHOOSY, STRAPPED BETWEEN TWO WILD HORSES ABOUT TO TAKE OFF IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS!"
9-5

SO I SAID "OKAY." AND THEY TOOK ME INTO THE PALACE TO PREPARE FOR THE WEDDING.
THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

"I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING READY FOR THE WEDDING TO ASTA," CONTINUES MIKE." I WAS TAKEN TO THE ROYAL SHOWERS FOR A BATH-"

"THAT'S WHEN I ESCAPED-- WRAPPED IN A ROYAL TOWEL. I MANAGED TO REACH MY OWN TROOPS--"

PEACE WAS MADE WITH KING TRONDA, AND I RETURNED TO BENGALI. THE OLD BOY DIED SOON AFTER, AND ASTA BECAME QUEEN.

ASTA CLAIMS THAT SINCE I AGREED TO MARRY HER- WE'RE MARRIED! THO I NEVER REALLY SAW HER!
SHE'S GOT A BREACH-OF-PROMISE CASE. NOTHING MORE.
9-6

TWO YEARS PASSED. I FORGOT ABOUT ASTA. CONNIE CAME TO BENGALI TO MARRY ME. THEN I SAW THAT GOLDEN PEACOCK FEATHER.

"IT WAS A WARNING FROM ASTA. I COULDN'T EXPLAIN IT ALL TO CONNIE-I JUST INSISTED WE MARRY AT ONCE--"
YELLOW FEATHER. WHAT IS IT, MIKE?

"BUT ASTA'S THUGS WERE WAITING FOR ME AT MY ROOMS-I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE--"
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"THEY DRAGGED ME OVER MILES OF JUNGLE AND MOUNTAINS TO THROW ME AT ASTA'S FEET-AND POOR CONNIE WAS LEFT AT THE ALTAR."
9-7

ASTA RULES TRONDELAY, AS IF SHE WERE LIVING IN ANCIENT ROMAN TIMES, INSTEAD OF 1946. SHE HAS COMPLETE POWER--
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SHE'S A WILD WOMAN. IF I DON'T BECOME HER HUSBAND- SHE'LL KILL ME-AND WITH POOR CONNIE WAITING-WHAT AM I TO DO?

YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE, RIGHT NOW.
NO CHANCE! EVEN IF WE COULD FIGHT PAST THOSE TWO GUARDS, THEY'D CALL A HUNDRED MORE.
9-9

YOU'RE GOING OUT-AS I CAME- IN MY PLACE. I'M STAYING HERE.

GO TO CONNIE. SHE'S WAITING THERE WITH A HORSE. RIDE TO THE DEEP WOODS AND WAIT FOR ME, MIKE.
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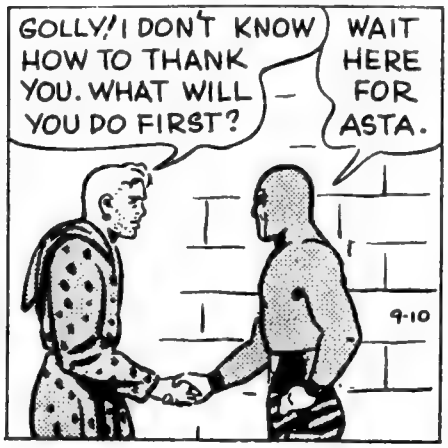
BUT HOW WILL YOU GET AWAY?
I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT WHEN THE TIME COMES.


GOLLY! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. WHAT WILL YOU DO FIRST?
WAIT HERE FOR ASTA.
9-10

I ALWAYS HEARD THAT THE PHANTOM FEARED NOTHING. NOW-I BELIEVE IT! I WARN YOU- SHE PLAYS ROUGH--
SO DO I.

DISGUISED, MIKE LEAVES THE CELL, THE PHANTOM REMAINING IN HIS PLACE.
9-11
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HOW'S CAPTAIN MIKE DOIN'ON THE BREAD AND WATER?
CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT MARRYING THE QUEEN YET?

SHE'LL TAME HIM--
-OR STARVE HIM TO DEATH.

THE QUEEN'S DUE FOR A SURPRISE. OR MAYBE THE PHANTOM IS. I'D SAY IT WAS EVEN-STEVEN.

WOW ~ I WAS AFRAID THOSE GUARDS WOULD TAKE A CLOSER LOOK~

WHO'S THAT COMING THIS WAY? IT'S NOT THE PHANTOM ~~

CONNIE ~ CONNIE ~ WHERE ARE YOU?
9-12

MIKE! MIKE!
CONNIE ~~ BABY!

MIKE DARLING ~ YOU'RE NOT HURT ~ YOU'RE ALL RIGHT ~?
YES, THANKS TO THE PHANTOM. HE STAYED THERE ~ IN MY PLACE!

HE SAID WE'RE TO RIDE TO THE DEEP WOODS, AND WAIT FOR HIM THERE. WE'LL LEAVE "HERO" HERE FOR HIM.

I FELT TERRIBLE, CONNIE ~ THINKING OF YOU, WAITING AT THE CHURCH ~
I'M STILL IN MY BRIDAL DRESS ~ I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE.
9-13

OH, DEAR, LIFE'S SO DULL HERE.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

YES, YES, YES! THAT'S ALL YOU CAN SAY! I'M SICK OF THE LOT OF YOU! CAN'T I EVER MEET A MAN WHO CAN SAY NO!

SHE'S GOING TO MEET ONE SOON!
9-14

MIKE ~ WHY DID QUEEN ASTA SAY SHE WAS MARRIED TO YOU ~~?
WELL, DARLING THAT'S A LONG STORY. IT'S LIKE THIS ~

WHY ARE YOU STOPPING, MIKE?
I THINK WE SHOULD GO BACK TO TRONDELAY, CONNIE.

IT'S SELFISH OF US TO RIDE OFF AND LEAVE THE PHANTOM BEHIND.
HE TOLD US TO.

YES, BUT HE SAVED MY LIFE. IT'S YELLOW OF ME TO TAKE OFF. I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, I DIDN'T THINK ~~

HE GAVE ME ONE OF HIS GUNS. I'M GOING BACK ~ TO USE IT ~ IF NECESSARY!
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE MAY NEED OUR HELP!
9-16

WE'VE SEARCHED THE WOODS FOR THE PHANTOM AND THAT GIRL, YOUR HIGHNESS. WE COULD NOT FIND THEM.

FOOLS! ONLY ONE MAN ~ AND HE WAS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR MY ENTIRE PALACE REGIMENT!

THAT WAS THE MAN FOR ME ~ AND HE'S GONE! IT'S ALL MIKE'S FAULT! I'LL GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND!

WHICH IS CAPTAIN MIKE'S CELL?
AT THE END, YOUR HIGHNESS. (WOW, SHE'S BURNING! HE'S GOING TO CATCH IT!)
9-17

REMAIN IN THE CORRIDOR, GUARD. I'LL HANDLE CAPTAIN MIKE, MYSELF. IT'S HIGH TIME ~~

?

HOW ~ DID HE ~ GET IN ~ HERE ~?
I ~ I ~ DON'T KNOW ~~ YOUR HIGHNESS! CAPTAIN MIKE WAS ~ IN HERE ~~

IT WAS DONE WITH MIRRORS, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOU FRESH, IMPUDENT ~
9-18

ASTA, YOU'RE TOO HANDY WITH THAT WHIP!
OH ~ YOU~~ SHOOT HIM DOWN!
THE PHANTOM FLICKS THE WHIP AT THE GUARD~~
AND IN A SINGLE MOVEMENT, PULLS THE GUARD TO HIM~ AND LANDS HARD!
9-19
OOOH ~ YOU'RE WONDERFUL! KISS ME.
UMMM?
NOPE. THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO SPREAD COLDS.
YOU CAD! YOU~~ I'LL HAVE YOU FLAYED ALIVE! I'LL~~
COME ON, ASTA I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO JUSTICE~
HOW DARE YOU!~~
~AND I'LL DO IT~ IF I HAVE TO SHOOT MY WAY THROUGH YOUR WHOLE MASQUERADE~ BALL ARMY!
9-20
TAKING ME TO JUSTICE? WHY?
YOU KIDNAPPED MIKE. YOU MIGHT HAVE KILLED CONNIE AT THE WHIPPING POST!
YOU CAN'T ARREST ME! I'M QUEEN!
JUST IN TRONDELAY. I'M NO POLICEMAN, BUT I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.
YES, TAKE ME WITH YOU! YOU'RE THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN I'VE EVER MET! I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!
WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A WOMAN LIKE THIS?
9-21

DROP YOUR GUNS.
DO AS HE ASKS.

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO EAT BEFORE YOU TAKE ME OFF TO JAIL?
WELL, I AM HUNGRY- BUT--

COME, I WON'T POISON YOU. IN FACT, I WILL COOK FOR YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS!
9-23

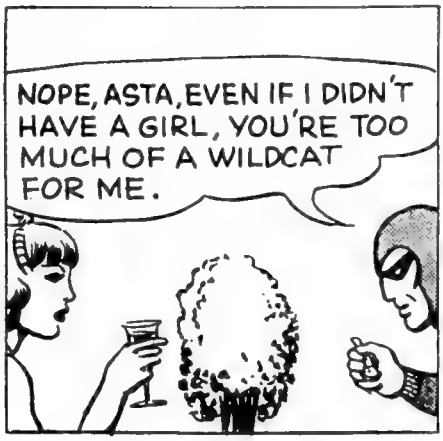
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU'RE AMAZING!

SEE, I WILL EAT SOME OF YOUR FOOD, TO PROVE IT ISN'T POISONED.

DO YOU ALWAYS EAT WITH A PISTOL? DON'T YOU TRUST ME?
NOPE.

CAN'T YOU LIKE ME-A LITTLE? I'M TOLD I'M RATHER ATTRACTIVE AND---
ASTA, I'VE GOT A GIRL AT HOME.

THAT'S SO FAR AWAY. OUT OF SIGHT-OUT OF MIND. DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S SITTING HOME NIGHTS-WAITING FOR YOU?
9-24


NOPE, ASTA, EVEN IF I DIDN'T HAVE A GIRL, YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A WILDCAT FOR ME.

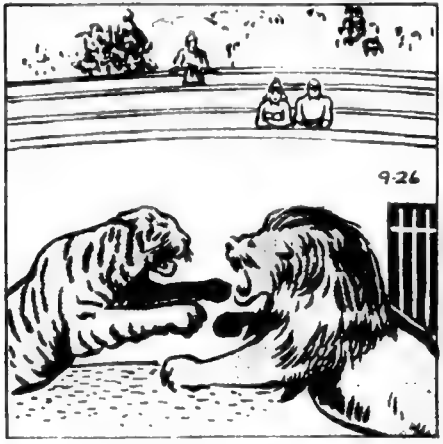
THE WINE STINGS INTO HIS EYES- MOMENTARILY BLINDING HIM--
WHO'S A WILDCAT? I'M CALM- I'M --

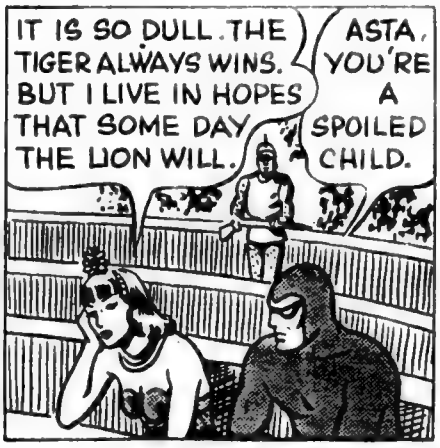
THE WAITING CHEF HURLS HIS POTATO MASHER-- SCORING A BULL'S-EYE!

FOOL! TRY TO OUTWIT ASTA! GOING TO ARREST ME -- WERE YOU!?
9-25

NOW WHAT, ASTA?
YOU WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL YOU DIE-AS MY SLAVE!

THE THRONE ROOM BORES ME. COME WITH ME TO THE ARENA.


9-26


IT IS SO DULL. THE TIGER ALWAYS WINS. BUT I LIVE IN HOPES THAT SOME DAY THE LION WILL.
ASTA, YOU'RE A SPOILED CHILD.

ASTA, YOU'RE LIVING IN THE MIDDLE AGES
INDEED?
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YOUR COSTUMES, YOUR COURT, YOUR ARENA, AND ALL THAT. DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A BIG WORLD OUTSIDE, WITH AIRPLANES AND RADIOS?

I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT WORLD ~AND I DON'T LIKE IT.

THIS IS MY WORLD. I LIVE AS I PLEASE ~AND I LIKE THAT!
9-27

I'M GLAD WE CAME BACK TO HELP THE PHANTOM. IF WE HADN'T, I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF, CONNIE.
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MIKE~ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING? MAYBE WE'LL BE CAUGHT~

OF COURSE WE WON'T BE CAUGHT. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! YOU FORGET, I'M AN OLD ARMY MAN!

OH
9-28

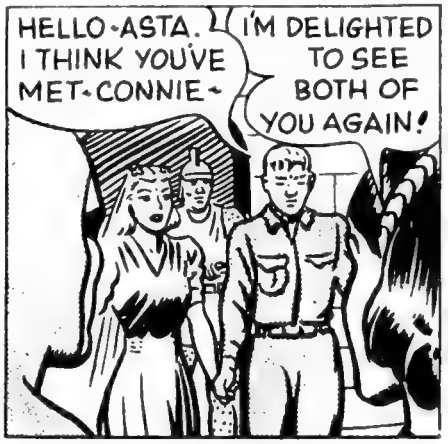
IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON MIKE AND CONNIE, I'LL--
YOU'RE A GREAT ONE FOR REVENGE, AREN'T YOU?

WHY NOT? IT'S IN MY BLOOD. I'M ALSO A GREAT ONE FOR CURIOSITY.

AND I'M CURIOUS TO SEE YOUR FACE-WITHOUT THE MASK!
NO, ASTA. THAT IS FORBIDDEN.
9-30

YOU FORGET. I AM THE QUEEN. NOTHING IS FORBIDDEN TO ME!

CAPTAIN MIKE AND THE WOMAN HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WHAT!


HELLO-ASTA. I THINK YOU'VE MET-CONNIE-
I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE BOTH OF YOU AGAIN!

SO, YOU DIDN'T GET AWAY AFTER ALL! YOU DECEIVER--!
WE CAME BACK-
10-1

I TOLD YOU TO GO TO THE DEEP WOODS!
WE THOUGHT WE COULD HELP YOU.
SOME HELP-

ALL MY SUBJECTS KNOW THAT YOU SCORNED ME FOR THIS WOMAN, CAPTAIN MIKE!
NOW, ASTA-

AS IT HAPPENS, I NO LONGER LOVE YOU, MIKE BUT I MUST WIPE OUT THIS HUMILIATION! IN MY FATHER'S TIME---

-OUR ENEMIES WERE TORN APART BETWEEN WILD HORSES. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT CUSTOM-AND I'VE DECIDED TO REVIVE IT-FOR YOUR BENEFIT-MIKE AND CONNIE!

IN THE ARENA-GIANT WILD HORSES!
10-2

THIS~TORNADO~ WON'T HOLD STILL~~
TIE THE ROPE~TO THEIR WRISTS~

ASTA~YOU CAN'T PERMIT THIS~IT'S NOT HUMAN~
THEY HUMILIATED ME!
10-3

MIKE~I CAN'T STAND THIS~ I WANT TO BE BRAVE~BUT~
IT WON'T BE LONG~~

IN THE ARENA~~ MIKE AND CONNIE ARE TIED BETWEEN WILD HORSES~~ THE BLINDFOLDS ARE REMOVED~~ THE GIANTS REAR INTO THE AIR~~

THEY'LL BE PULLED APART~ OR TRAMPLED TO DEATH~
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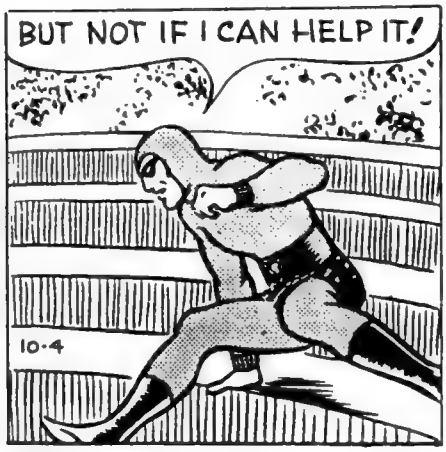
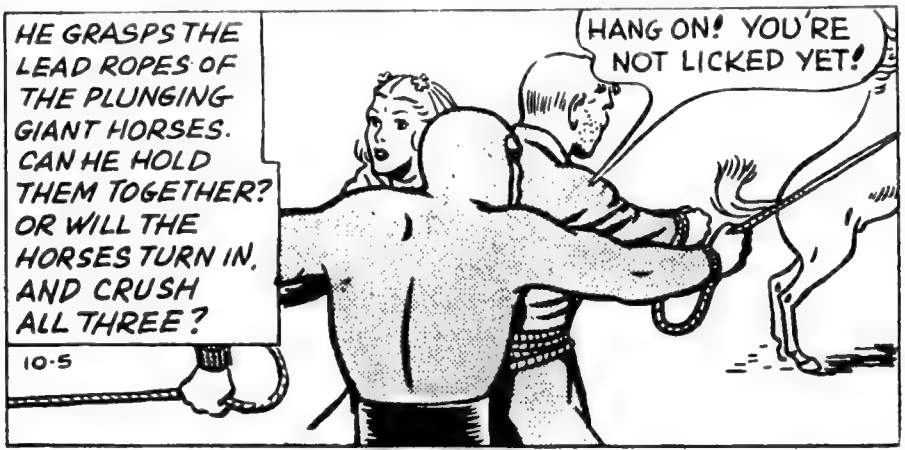

BUT NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
10-4

THE PHANTOM VAULTS INTO THE ARENA AND SPEEDS TOWARD THE WILD HORSES-

COME BACK, YOU FOOL! YOU'LL BE KILLED, TOO!


HE GRASPS THE LEAD ROPES OF THE PLUNGING GIANT HORSES. CAN HE HOLD THEM TOGETHER? OR WILL THE HORSES TURN IN, AND CRUSH ALL THREE?
HANG ON! YOU'RE NOT LICKED YET!
10-5

MIKE~WHAT~ WHAT ARE THEY DOING~?
TYING US~ BETWEEN~ WILD HORSES!
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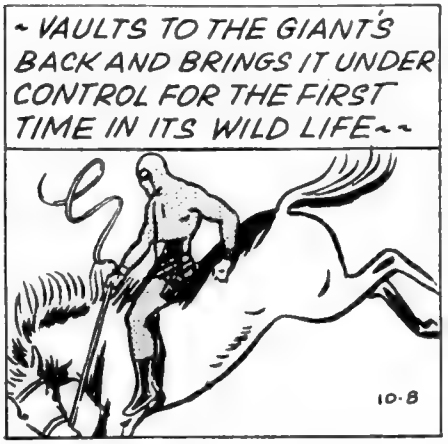
IN THE ARENA, THE PHANTOM THROWS ONE OF THE GIANT HORSES~

HE HURRIEDLY SNAPS THE ROPES AS IF THEY WERE BURNT THREADS~~

MIKE CATCHES CONNIE AS SHE FAINTS~~
UHH~~
CONNIE~ DARLING
10-7

AND THE SECOND WILD HORSE REARS UP ON THE PHANTOM WITH SHARP HOOFS DARTING LIKE TWIN AXES!

IN THE ARENA, THE PHANTOM DARTS ALONGSIDE THE WILD HORSE~~

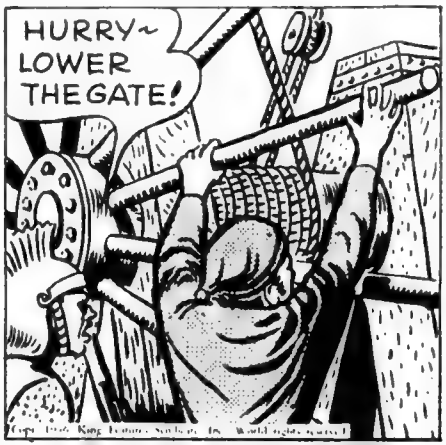

~VAULTS TO THE GIANT'S BACK AND BRINGS IT UNDER CONTROL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS WILD LIFE~~
10-8

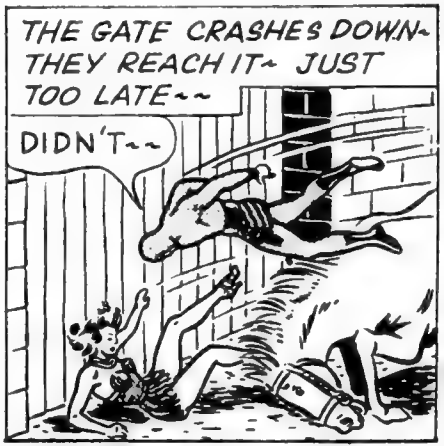
THEN SPEEDS TOWARDS ASTA~~
STOP HIM~ STOP HIM~~

~AND SNATCHES THE PROUD QUEEN BEFORE HER GUARDS CAN MAKE A MOVE!
NO ~ NO~~

FOOL ~ WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TAKING YOU TO JUSTICE, ASTA!

HE SPEEDS TOWARDS THE OPEN GATE AT THE END OF THE ARENA~
MAY MAKE IT~
10-9


HURRY~ LOWER THE GATE!


THE GATE CRASHES DOWN~ THEY REACH IT~ JUST TOO LATE~~
DIDN'T~~

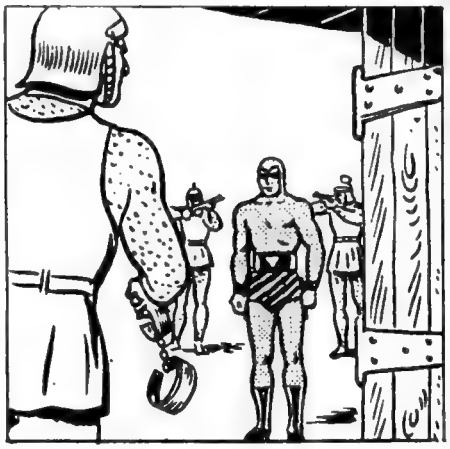
DON'T TOUCH ME. I CAN GET UP BY MYSELF!

ASTA IS SHAKING WITH FURY~ SHE'S BEEN DRAGGED ACROSS THE ARENA~ BOUNCED ON THE GROUND~

YOU TRIED HARD. YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT! YOU ONLY DELAYED THE DEATHS OF MIKE AND CONNIE! AS FOR YOU~~

YOU DEFIED ME~AND HUMILIATED ME~BEFORE MY PEOPLE. FOR THIS, YOU MUST DIE!
10-10

I WANT TO USE THE BIGGEST TIGER~THAT ONE!



YOU COULD HAVE HAD MY LOVE. INSTEAD, YOU WILL HAVE~ THE TIGER!
10-11

YOU WILL WATCH~AFTER WHICH~ YOU WILL FOLLOW~

NO WAY TO BREAK THESE HANDCUFFS~TOO STRONG~~

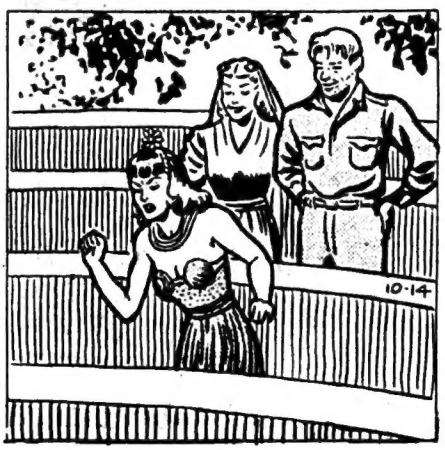
THIS IS HORRIBLE~ LIKE A NIGHT-MARE! WHAT CAN WE DO, MIKE?
NOTHING.

RELEASE THE TIGER!
10-12

IN THE ARENA, THE TIGER APPROACHES THE MANACLED PHANTOM CAUTIOUSLY~

THE PHANTOM SPEAKS SOFTLY~ THE TIGER SNIFFS AT HIM~~
HELLO, PUSSY~ PUSSY~PUSSY~ PUSSY~~

SOMEBODY SLIPPED UP. HE'S JUST FINISHED FEEDING~ HE'S SLEEPY~~

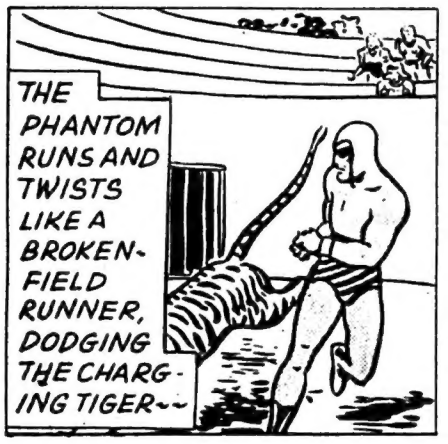

10-14

I'LL WAKE UP THAT SLEEPY CAT!

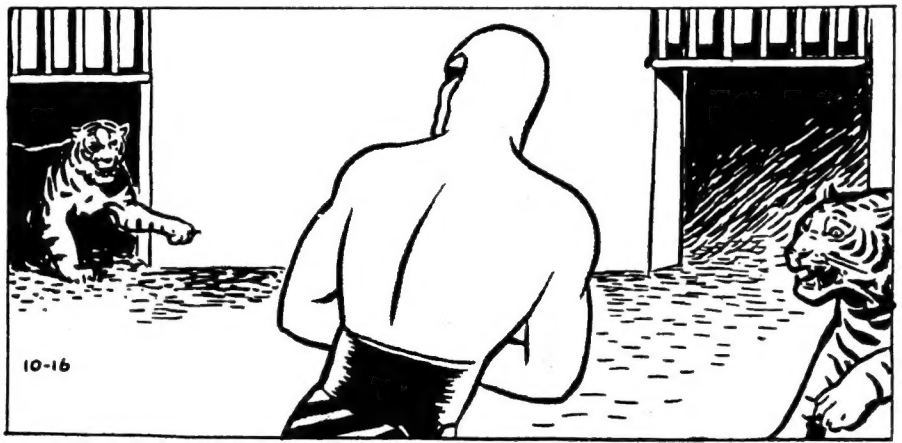
SHE DOES! THE WOUNDED BEAST ROARS WITH PAIN~~

WOUNDED~ HE'S BAD NOW~~
10-15

THE PHANTOM MOVES LIKE LIGHTNING~ THE TIGER CRASHES AGAINST THE WALL~
I CAN KEEP THIS UP JUST SO LONG~~


THE PHANTOM RUNS AND TWISTS LIKE A BROKEN-FIELD RUNNER, DODGING THE CHARGING TIGER~~

RELEASE ANOTHER TIGER!


10-16

IN THE ARENA~ THE TWO TIGERS BRAWL WITH EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT~~

THEN SUDDENLY TURN~~ AND SPRING TOGETHER~~

HE IS WAITING~AND STRIKES OUT WITH ALL THE POWER OF HIS IRON LEGS~AGAINST THEIR SENSITIVE NOSES~~

BUT A GIANT PAW STRIKES HIM IN THE TEMPLE ~ HE COLLAPSES ~UNCONSCIOUS~
10-17

THE PHANTOM LIES UNCON-SCIOUS BETWEEN THE TWO TIGERS~~ THE CATS CLOSE IN~

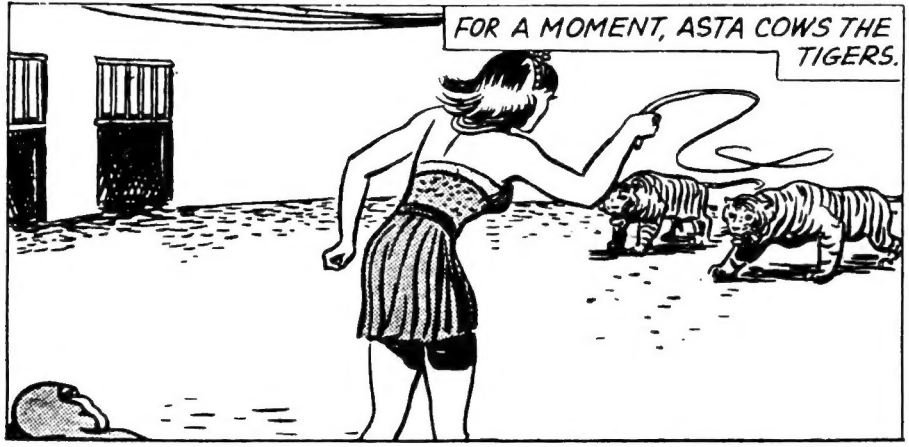
HE PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT~ BUT HE'S FINISHED NOW~ YOUR HIGHNESS~~

SUDDENLY, THE UNEXPECTED! ASTA GRABS A WHIP~
NO~NO~NO~!

AND VAULTS INTO THE ARENA~
10-18

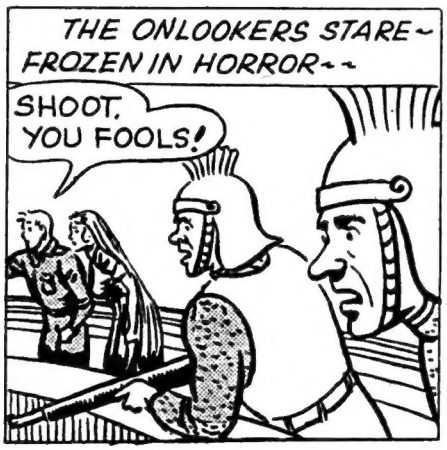
ASTA RACES ACROSS THE ARENA TOWARD THE UNCONSCIOUS PHANTOM~~

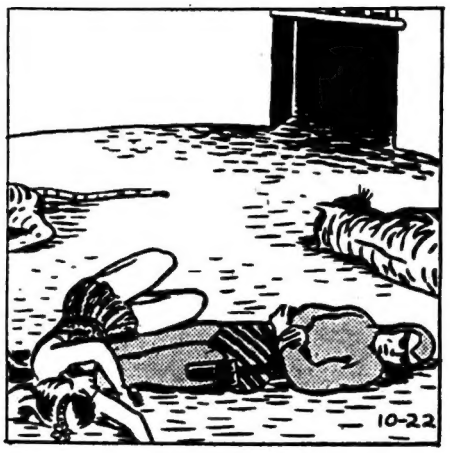
BACK BACK
10-19


FOR A MOMENT, ASTA COWS THE TIGERS.

ONE TIGER STARTS TOWARDS HER ~ SHE TAKES A HURRIED BACKWARD STEP ~ TRIPPING OVER THE PHANTOM ~~
10-21

AS ASTA FALLS ON THE UNCONSCIOUS PHANTOM ~~ AND TAKES THE BRUNT OF THE TIGER ATTACK ~

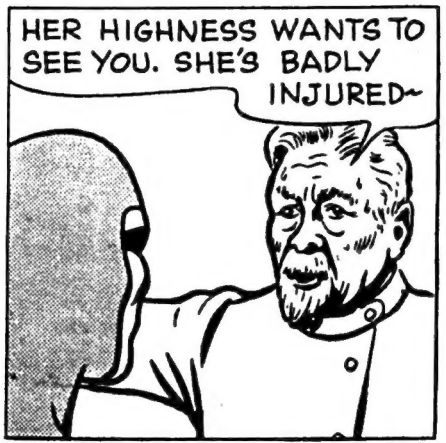

THE ONLOOKERS STARE ~ FROZEN IN HORROR ~~
SHOOT, YOU FOOLS!


10-22

I'M OKAY. I WAS LUCKY ~ NOT EVEN SCRATCHED ~ JUST A BUMP ~ HOW'S ASTA?

SHE'S IN A BAD WAY. SHE TRIED TO SAVE YOU ~~ AND COVERED YOU WHEN THE TIGERS LEAPED ~~
I KNOW. I WAS HALF-CONSCIOUS.
COPR 1946 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

WHY DID SHE DO IT?
I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S A STRANGE GIRL ~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
10-23

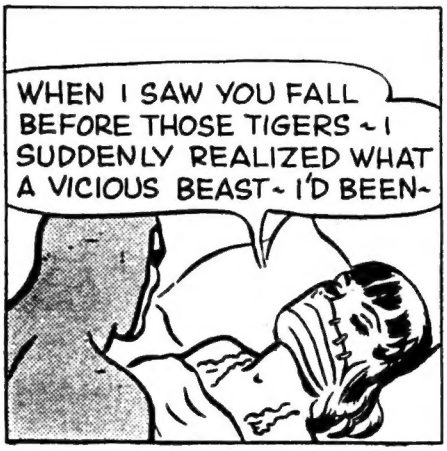

HER HIGHNESS WANTS TO SEE YOU. SHE'S BADLY INJURED ~

ASTA~~
COPR. 1946, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE~~
AFTER TRYING TO KILL YOU. THEY TELL ME~ I'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN~~
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.

AND MY BEAUTY~ MY BEAUTY IS RUINED~ MY FACE~~

WHY DID YOU DO IT, ASTA ?
10-24


WHEN I SAW YOU FALL BEFORE THOSE TIGERS~I SUDDENLY REALIZED WHAT A VICIOUS BEAST~I'D BEEN~

~I REALIZED THAT I WAS NOT A WOMAN~ONLY A SPOILED CHILD~WITH UNLIMITED POWER~~

~I REALIZED THAT AT LAST I WAS TRULY IN LOVE~~ THAT I LOVED YOU MORE THAN MYSELF~~

GOOD-BYE ASTA.
THINK OF ME, SOMETIMES~
10-25

IN SPITE OF WHAT ASTA DID~I FEEL SORRY FOR HER~~
SHE RECEIVED HER PUNISHMENT- STRANGE, WILD GIRL~~
COPR 1946 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, Inc

NOW, DARLING, BACK TO BENGALI~TO TAKE UP FROM WHERE WE WERE SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED~MARRIAGE~ AT ONCE!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

WE CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH~~ GOOD-BYE~~
GOOD-BYE, GOOD LUCK~ TO BOTH OF YOU~~

GOOD-BYE, ASTA QUEEN OF TRONDELAY~~
10-26